

Binghamton, NY -- Retiring Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today kicked off the first leg of his final tour throughout New York's 22nd Congressional District. In visits with constituents and local officials in Binghamton, Ithaca and Owego, Hinchey discussed his many accomplishments, but the primary reason for his visit was to say thank you to the area residents he has represented over the past 20 years. Hinchey will officially leave office on January 3, 2013 at noon.

"Despite all the battles won and lost, I wanted to be here today to say thank you to all of you who stood with me as we took on the big fights," said Hinchey. "For these reasons and many others, I am very proud to have represented you in Congress, proud to call you my friends, and proud of what we have accomplished together. You stood with me every step of the way. For that I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I look back on my life in public service proud of what we accomplished together, regretful that I could not do more and hopeful that you will pick up where I left off, and continue the fight for this region and for what is right."

In Broome County, Hinchey touted his leadership in securing the conversion of Route 17 to Interstate 86, which has created hundreds of jobs and injected millions of dollars in federal investments into the region. Hinchey also discussed the millions in investments he secured for projects like the Front Street Gateway revitalization, Binghamton University's Center for Autonomous Solar Power, and the Broome intermodal bus terminal, which has been aptly named "Hinchey's Hub." Beyond that, Hinchey pointed to tireless efforts to keep large employers like BAE Systems in the region. The Congressman went on to describe the fight to clean up TCE pollution left behind by IBM in Endicott, New York.

In Ithaca, Hinchey discussed the billions in federal aid he delivered for infrastructure and education.

Hinchey secured nearly \$1 million to help create the Waterfront Trail, which is now one of the most widely used trails in the region, connecting the community's most popular waterfront parks. Hinchey also secured substantial federal funding to transform and upgrade the Tompkins County Area Transit System.

Perhaps most notably, Hinchey delivered hundreds of millions in federal funds to Cornell University's science and agricultural research programs.

Later in Owego, Hinchey pointed to \$2 million in federal funding he secured for the Owego Riverwalk – a 1,200-foot walkway along the Susquehanna River in Owego's historic downtown commercial district that has provided pedestrian access to the river and helped maintain river banks from flood damage. Hinchey also said he was also proud of his longtime relationship with Lockheed Martin and his work to maintain and secure federal contracts for what is now Tioga County's largest employer. Beyond that, the Congressman described his work to establish the Tioga Rural Area Economic Partnership (REAP) program – an initiative that has spurred rural development in the county over the last 13 years while delivering over \$20 million in federal and state investments.

On the big national issues, Hinchey said he always tried to stand up for what he believed was right, even though it was not always popular. Hinchey pointed to his opposition to the invasion and occupation of Iraq, votes against the deregulation of Wall Street that led to the 2008 financial collapse, and votes against unfair trade deals like NAFTA that caused the exportation of millions of manufacturing jobs. "Instead of listening to the lobbyists, I listened to the people," he said. "Instead of standing with my political party, I stood with the New Yorkers I was sent to represent."

A comprehensive list of Hinchey's achievements as member of the New York State Assembly and U.S. House follows:

- Under Hinchey's leadership as Chairman of the Environmental Conservation Committee, the panel conducted a successful investigation into the causes of "Love Canal," the nation's first major toxic dumpsite, and developed landmark environmental legislation including the nation's first law to control acid rain.
- Between 1982 and 1992, Hinchey led an investigation into organized crime's control of the waste-hauling industry that led to the conviction of more than 20 criminal figures, including one for murder.
- Hinchey successfully led the fight, first in Albany and later in Washington, to force General Electric to pay for and clean up the 1.3 million pounds of PCBs it dumped into the Hudson River between 1947 and 1977. Dating back to his days as Chair of the State Assembly's Environmental Conservation Committee, Hinchey fought against numerous attempts to delay

and narrow the clean-up process, and he worked tirelessly to make sure the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency held GE responsible for the cleanup. In 2011, Hinchey visited the upper Hudson River to laud the commencement of the second and final phase of the cleanup as a critical step forward in removing PCB contamination that has plagued the Hudson River for many decades.

- As a member of the House Banking Committee, Hinchey's pointed and persistent questioning of Alan Greenspan forced the Federal Reserve Board Chairman to admit to the existence of taped recordings of the meetings of the Federal Open Markets Committee (FOMC), the board's policy making body. As a result, the public now has direct insight into the thinking of the FOMC, and the logic behind the decisions affecting interest rates and other important economic policies.
- In 1993, Hinchey and the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan authored legislation designating New York's Route 17 as Interstate 86, in order to bring increased economic activity to the Southern Tier and Catskills regions. After their legislation was passed as part of the 1998 Building Efficient Surface Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (BESTEA-21), the 381 mile stretch of Route 17 was set on a path to becoming I-86, making it eligible for a wide array of new federal funding. The conversion of Route 17 to I-86 will eventually provide a federal interstate connection from I-90 at Erie, PA to I-87 at Harriman, NY. The New York State Department of Transportation is currently planning a major reconstruction project for Prospect Mountain in Binghamton, New York, which will create more than 200 jobs.
- In 1999, Hinchey succeeded in passing an amendment that required the CIA to report to Congress on its involvement in the 1973 coup of Chile's democratically elected President, Salvador Allende. Following the coup, President Allende was assassinated and General Augusto Pinochet began his 17-year dictatorship. The report, now known as the Hinchey Report, makes a clear case that the United States - at the very highest levels of government - was deeply involved in the destabilization of Chile's government and economy over a period of nearly 20 years.
- In 1999 and 2000, Hinchey successfully secured emergency assistance for U.S. apple farmers who suffered severe weather-related crop damage. Without this emergency aid, many apple farms in New York would have been lost.
- Hinchey led efforts to convince state and federal agencies to address toxic contamination

facing the Village of Endicott, New York. Hinchey's attention to the pollution, a legacy of the region's industrial past, prompted ongoing studies on public health and the health of former IBM workers. In 2004, he successfully petitioned the DEC to reclassify the site from Class 4 to Class 2 on the state's registry of inactive hazardous waste sites -- bringing much greater resources, attention, and urgency to the need to test and remediate Endicott's more than 300 acre toxic spill.

- As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has secured billions of dollars in federal aid to spur job growth, improve public infrastructure, advance education and the arts, improve health care facilities and services, and support economic development in local communities throughout the congressional district he represents in a wide array of ways.

- Hinchey was one of the first and most outspoken members of Congress to oppose President Bush's effort to invade Iraq. He subsequently became a forceful critic of ongoing operations within Iraq and led the call for the removal of U.S. forces, which has now occurred.

- Hinchey led the congressional outcry against the NSA's warrantless surveillance program that was instituted under President Bush. He requested, and helped successfully secure, the launch of an independent Department of Justice probe to determine any wrongdoing.

- Hinchey successfully secured nearly \$17 million in federal funding to secure Binghamton University's future as a top caliber research university. The federal funding helped establish the Small Scale Systems Integration and Packaging Center, which includes the Center for Advanced Microelectronics Manufacturing and the Center for Autonomous Solar Power.

- Hinchey used his position on the U.S. House Appropriations Committee to secure millions in federal funding for Cornell University's science and agricultural research programs.

- Hinchey secured \$4.1 million to help establish a new state-of-the-art Broome County Intermodal bus terminal. Now up and running and nicknamed "Hinchey's Hub," the terminal has helped revitalized a previously forgotten part of downtown Binghamton and allowed for convenient passage of tens of thousands of travelers moving to and from the Southern Tier.

- Hinchey secured \$4 million in federal funding in the 2005 highway reauthorization law to improve the Front Street gateway into Binghamton, New York. As a primary artery into the City, Front Street in Binghamton is seeing structural and visual improvements that make the city more welcoming to visitors.
- Hinchey helped develop the concept for and secured nearly \$2 million in federal funding to create the Owego, New York Riverwalk – a 1,200-foot walkway along the Susquehanna River in Owego's historic downtown commercial district that has provided pedestrian access to the river and helped maintain river banks from flood damage.
- Hinchey secured nearly \$1 million to help create the City of Ithaca's Waterfront Trail - a six-mile, multi-use trail providing an active, non-motorized transportation and recreation way connecting the community's most popular waterfront parks and places.
- Hinchey established the Tioga Rural Area Economic Partnership (REAP) program -- an initiative which was designed to spur economic growth in the county and has delivered over \$20 million in federal and state investments. A second zone in Sullivan County and Wawarsing was established. The REAP Zones in the State of New York are two of only five such areas in the entire nation.
- In 2007, Hinchey led the effort to establish The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) -- a not-for-profit entity in upstate New York that brings together private solar companies and research institutions throughout the state to develop new ways to efficiently and effectively develop economically viable solar technologies. The results have been extraordinary. Hinchey and TSEC have attracted numerous companies to upstate New York and helped create more than 600 solar energy-related jobs with many more on the way.
- Hinchey is the primary leader in Congress to protect drinking water and the environment from the risks of hydraulic fracturing. He is a co-author of the FRAC Act, which would mandate public disclosure of chemicals used in fracking fluid and allow the EPA to regulate fracking activities under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- In 2009, Hinchey authored the appropriations language that initiated the EPA's current national study on hydraulic fracturing. This is the first comprehensive and independent analysis

of the risks that hydraulic fracturing poses to drinking water.